

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07

TRSE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10 L-03 DODE-00 COME-00

OMB-01 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /081 W

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R 271219Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2619

S E C R E N T KHARTOUM 2813

E.O. 1165 , GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES FOR SUDAN: C-130

REF: STATE 233648

1. FONMIN MAKKAWI TELEPHONED ME AT HOME FRIDAY EVENING, SEPT. 24, AT BEGINNING 4-DAY ID AL-FITR HOLIDAY. HE INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS C-130 PROGRAM. AND HE INDICATED VISITING LOCKHEED REPS HAD ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH NIMEIRI. THIS IN TURN HAD LED NIMEIRI TO ASK WHETHER MAKKAWI HAD RECEIVED ANY NEW INFORMATION EGARDING C-130 PROGRAM.

2. I MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET MAKKAWI SATURDAY EVENING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. AT OUR MEETING MAKKAWI REITERATED FEELING OF URGENCY THAT GOS HAS REGARDING C-130S. HE

EXPLAINED THAT WHEN LOCKHEED OFFICIALS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT, PRESIDENT NIMEIGI THOUGHT AT FIRST THIS MEANT THAT WE HAD APPROVED SALE. FYI, LOCKHEED VISITORS WERE ROBERT CONLEY, PRESIDENT LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT (MID-EAST),

AND THOMAS STEUSLOFF FROM LOCKHEED-GEORGIA. THEY HAD CALLED ME ON THURSDAY, SEPT 24. END FYI.

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3. I BRIEFED MAKKAWI ALONG LINES REFTTEL PARA 2B. I ALSO

REMINDED HIM THAT BECAUSE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY AND CURRENT DEBATE IN US CONGRESS OVER US MILITARY SALES, WE SIMPLY COULD NOT PREDICT NOW WHEN FINAL DECISION WILL BE REACHED. I ALSO EXPLAINED THAT LOCKHEED OFFICIALS' VISIT TO KHARTOUM DID NOT SIGNIFY THAT FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED IN WASHINGTON. COMPANY OFFICIALS WERE MERELY INVESTIGATING STATUS OF POSSIBLE SALE WHICH IS OF CONSIDERABLE COMMERCIAL INTEREST TO THE COMPANY.

4. COMMENT: MAKKAWI SEEMED SATISFIED WITH INFO PROVIDED. HE SAID HE WOULD BRIEF NIMEIRI ON STATUS C-130 MATTER. I EXPECT TO SEE FRANCIS DECG SOON, AND I WILL ALSO BRIEF HIM ON POINTS MADE REFTEL. BASED ON REMARKS MADE BY LOCKHEED REPS, IT EVIDENT THAT THEY FULLY AWARE OF STATUS OF THE SALE. I TOLD THEM WHEN WE MET THAT I FELT GOS WOULD INTERPRET THEIR BEING HERE AS INDICATION THAT THEY WOULD BE HEARING SOON FROM US THAT SALE HAD BEEN APPROVED. IT IS LIKELY THEY WILL RETURN TO KHARTOUM LATER THIS WEEK AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS HERE TO ASSURE FAVORABLE OUTCOME REGARDING SALE OF C-130 TO SUDANESE MILITARY. LOCKHEED ALSO CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE L-100 SALES IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN. BOGOSIAN

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